

Inside OUT

The Newsletter of the CDC/HRSA Corrections Demonstration Projects
Produced six times a year through the collaboration of
Correctional Technical Assistance and Training Project of SEATEC and the National Minority AIDS Council

Volume 1, Issue 6

Fall 2001

This publication is supported by Grant Number 99095 from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS) Program and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention. The publication's comments are of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of HRSA or CDC.

HRSA/SPNS/CDC Grantee Meeting Chicago, IL

by Jackie Zalumas, SEATEC

The grantees of the corrections-public health initiative met in Chicago at the House of Blues Hotel from August 27-29. The meeting began with a site visit to the Haymarket Center on Monday afternoon. The Haymarket Center serves chemically dependent men and women and their families. The Center serves homeless and court-mandated offenders through detox, residential, outpatient and special treatment programs. The program goal is independent living in recovery. The group was welcomed by project staff, refreshments and an overview of programs. Individual small groups toured through the various programs during the afternoon. Each person we met displayed personal concern and commitment to the populations being served. We left with a real sense of comprehensive services.

The Chicago Department of Public Health hosted a wonderful reception at a Cajun 'Red Fish' restaurant on Monday night. At the reception we were introduced to the new addition to the family of Kendall Moore and Marcy Hoffman Moore, Mackenzie Iree Moore. We enjoyed Cajun food and opportunities to visit and catch up with each other.

The grantee meeting began with a panel of clients and staff who participate in the Illinois Public Health, Corrections, and Community Initiative. These personal experiences presented a perspective and vision that laid groundwork for the rest of the meeting. Throughout the next two days, grantees heard presentations on several aspects of the cross-cutting evaluation plan: an update on the OHRP rules and regulations by Virginia Talley of CDC, an overview of the qualitative evaluation progress by Alyssa Robillard and Paige Gallito of Rollins School of Public Health at Emory and a presentation by David Holtgrave of Emory University, Rollins School of Public Health, on Application of Cost Effectiveness Studies in HIV/AIDS Programs.

Roundtables were convened for the on-going work of the jail, prison, policy, CBO, and publication and dissemination workgroups. Several break out sessions were provided during the meeting for discussion on retention issues; drug and alcohol treatment; multi-site evaluation interaction; discharge planning; and cooperation, collaboration and communication among partners.

The decision was made to have the next grantee meeting in New Jersey in early 2002. Thanks to the Chicago Project for the hospitality and for a great meeting.



Illinois Project Panel—Grantee Meeting, Chicago, IL
(L-R) Otis Williams, Donal Brown, Kendall Moore, Otha Lee, Dr. Kirby Cunningham, Michael Neal

Inside this issue:

Evaluation Program and Support Center **2**

CBO Spotlight **3**

Professional Corner **4**

2001 USCA **6**

Save the Date **8**

Resources **8**

CONTACT INFORMATION

Correctional Technical Assistance and Training Project (CTAT)
Southeast AIDS Training and Education Center
Emory University
735 Gatewood Road, NE
Atlanta, GA 30322
(404) 727-2927

National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC)
1931 13th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 483-6622

Evaluation and Program Support Center Emory University and Abt Associates *by Marjorie Dunne, SEATEC*

While visions of evaluation forms danced in their heads...

Focus on: EPSC

(Evaluation and Program Support Center)

Forms, forms, forms. Unfortunately, when people working with the CDC/HRSA Corrections Demonstration Project hear “EPSC” (Evaluation and Program Support Center), forms are all that they think of.

Devoted to something more than just forms, the EPSC is a committed group of highly intelligent people working to gather hard statistics that back up the excellent work being done in the field by the seven state grantees in the project (California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York). Without supporting data, future funding for some of the groundbreaking work being done in the area of HIV and corrections may not be possible.

The EPSC was born out of a long-standing working relationship between Ted Hammett of Abt Associates and Ron Braithwaite of Emory University. Together with Kim Arriola of Emory University, they wrote the grant to do the multi-site evaluation component for the CDC/HRSA Corrections Demonstration Project and were funded as the EPSC. These three colleagues later expanded their group to include a full team of associates. Sofia Kennedy works with Abt in Cambridge, MA; and at Emory University in Atlanta, GA, the team includes Alyssa Robillard and Paige Gallito, who spearhead the qualitative evaluation component, and Cameron Coltharp, who is in charge of dissemination.

The Emory/Abt team oversees all aspects of the project evaluation, with all decisions being made collectively. Together they deal with the many administrative details as well as the data collection and evaluation. The Abt group acts as the data repository. In addition, Emory and Abt work together to offer technical assistance surrounding data collection, data entry, data analysis and dissemination. The technical assistance offered also includes programmatic support to the seven states.

When asked about the work EPSC is doing with the states, Arriola said, “The collaborative effort is outstanding. The grantees are passionate about their work in establishing innovative programs for the high risk/HIV positive inmates. EPSC will help them to share with the rest of the world just how useful their work is. The evaluation data that are gathered and analyzed may be used as a tool to lobby for additional funding and to justify current funding. It has the potential to impact policy.”

“The EPSC is a committed group of highly intelligent people working to gather hard statistics that back up the excellent work being done in the field by the seven state grantees in the CDC/HRSA Corrections Demonstration Project.”



Evaluation Team: (L-R) Paige Gallito-Emory University, Ted Hammett-Abt Associates, Ronald Braithwaite-Emory University, Sofia Kennedy-Abt Associates, Kimberly Jacob Arriola-Emory Uni-

CBO Spotlight On... The Hyacinth AIDS Foundation New Jersey

by Marjorie Dunne, SEATEC

The Hyacinth AIDS Foundation of New Jersey has one of the most comprehensive and innovative set of programs currently being funded by the CDC/HRSA Corrections Demonstration Project. Working together as a dedicated staff of approximately 50 people, including those working inside corrections, the Hyacinth team is committed to their stated mission to “help people live with HIV, slow the spread of the epidemic and serve as a crucial voice in the public debate surrounding AIDS in New Jersey.”

With this mission statement as its guide, Hyacinth provides a wide range of support services for people living with AIDS and their families and friends. These services reach over 2,000 clients annually and include case management, advocacy, housing assistance, treatment education, referral information, support groups and a volunteer buddy program. Additionally, Hyacinth representatives provide a voice for public policy that is responsive to the needs of HIV clients. Six regions in New Jersey have a Hyacinth agency and each of those offices is designed to meet the particular needs of the area in which it is located.

Although the Hyacinth AIDS Foundation is not strictly a corrections-based organization, it has always recognized the importance of HIV education in corrections and began working inside correctional facilities in 1996. The strong relationship between the Department of Corrections and Hyacinth’s Executive Director Riki Jacobs has helped Hyacinth to effectively implement programs that help not only HIV+ inmates but also provide a service to all incarcerated individuals. One example of such a program is the statewide hotline run by Hyacinth that allows all prisoners throughout New Jersey’s state correctional facilities to call for information and assistance toll free.

The CDC/HRSA grant has funded several new programs developed by Hyacinth for the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women. Some of the programs developed at this women’s facility will serve as models for programs that will subsequently be initiated in East Jersey State Prison, a men’s correctional facility. Hyacinth credits the success of their programs at Edna Mahan in great part to the support they get from the corrections staff and from the trusting relationship they have with Superintendent Charlotte Blackwell.

Because there is no mandatory testing for HIV in New Jersey correctional facilities, Hyacinth relies on referrals from the infectious disease doctors at the prison and on voluntary testing by inmates to identify HIV+ inmates. Hyacinth offers pre- and post-test counseling to anyone who wants to be tested. To encourage testing, raise awareness of infectious disease transmission and empower women to strive toward a healthier lifestyle, Hyacinth combines a cognitive skills class with health education and risk reduction programs. A strong peer education program run by Hyacinth in the prison also serves to promote voluntary testing. As part of the Hyacinth mission to “slow the spread of the epidemic,” prevention case



Hyacinth Foundation, New Jersey
(L-R) Alisha Philipson-Hyacinth AIDS Foundation, Dennis Smith-New Jersey Association on Correction, Kim Hunter-Hyacinth AIDS Foundation

**The Hyacinth
AIDS
Foundation
has always
recognized the
importance of
HIV education
in corrections
and began
working inside
correctional
facilities in
1996.**

continued on page 5

Professional Corner Spotlight On... Priscilla Wood

by Marjorie Dunne, SEATEC



Choral singing is one of Priscilla Wood's passions, but little did she know that her future in working with HIV/AIDS clients would derive from an experience she had in 1986 when she was singing in a Tallahassee Episcopal church choir. A young man who sang with her in the choir, someone who was her friend, was diagnosed with AIDS and later died. She was so struck by this loss that she started doing volunteer work with HIV positive clients. Fifteen years later, she is now at the helm of a model Florida state project dealing with HIV/AIDS.

In 1990, Priscilla moved to Gainesville, Florida, to work with the local health department. Two years later, she joined the Northeast Florida Health Planning Council as a staff member, coordinating the 16-county Ryan White Title II consortium. In this capacity, she worked with a group of dedicated people, many of whom were living with AIDS. The consortium's role was to determine the needs of people living with HIV and AIDS in their rural area and to delegate available Ryan White funds in accordance with those needs.

Priscilla has held numerous jobs in a wide variety of private and public health settings. The culmination of this broad experience is her current role as Special Projects Coordinator with the Early Intervention Section of the Bureau of HIV/AIDS for the Florida Department of Health (DOH). It was in this capacity that she coordinated writing the grant for Florida's participation in the CDC/HRSA Corrections Demonstration Project. This grant was co-authored by DOH and Department of Corrections and is one of several health/corrections initiatives established in Florida. Priscilla oversees the implementation of the grant as well as other health and corrections initiatives. Exuberant; personable; attractive; organized; and a go-getter, can-do type of person, Priscilla has been the driving force behind the corrections-to-community/continuity of care initiative in her state.

A fifth generation Floridian, a rarity in that state, Priscilla was raised in Tallahassee as the daughter of an Episcopal priest. She left Florida only briefly to attend George Mason University in Virginia to study education. Student teaching convinced her that she was more interested in working with the children's families than she was in teaching them. Moving into the world of social services without a specific degree was not difficult for her in 1971, and she found herself working for the public welfare department giving out food stamps before "stumbling" into a job as a medical social worker and discharge planner for a local hospital in Tallahassee.

As a hospital discharge planner, Priscilla says her primary job was finding resources for her clients. She tells of a doctor who asked her to make sure his elderly emphysema patient, who had only Social Security income, "went home to an air-conditioned house." Priscilla found an appliance dealer to provide the patient with an air conditioner and then found the funds to pay for the increase in his utility bills. Another client being discharged, an amputee, needed shoes. Priscilla's challenge was to find left shoes only. The right shoes were saved, and sure enough, were used in the future by another new amputee.

In another job working with the National Health Services Corps (NHSC), Priscilla found jobs for medical school graduates in underserved areas. In one situation she located a job for a family practitioner in a Jacksonville hospital clinic for indigents. The clinic closed

"Exuberant; personable; attractive; organized; and a go-getter, can-do type of person, Priscilla has been the driving force behind the corrections-to-community/continuity of care initiative in her state."

continued on page 5

Priscilla Wood

(continued from page 4)

while the physician and his wife were out of the country on vacation, thinking their placement was secure. Priscilla had to track down the young doctor in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, call him in the middle of the night and give him the bad news. A happy ending came with her story in that she found a placement for him in Jacksonville fairly quickly, and he continued to work there beyond his NHSC obligation. He wrote Priscilla that he learned from that event that “things don’t always go according to plan” and thanked her for giving him the bad news “with aplomb”—a compliment she continues to cherish.

Priscilla currently manages six contracts, all but one relating to corrections, and heads up a special projects unit in the Bureau. Implementing new infectious disease-screening and linkage programs in local county jails is at the top of her list of priorities for the coming year. With 67 counties, each with their own jail system—all run differently—the task is daunting. A second priority is to continue to enhance the newly-formed CARE (Community Agencies providing Resources for Ex-offenders) Network which currently consists of 80 agencies and organizations. She established this network when she saw the need for agencies all around the state to work together dealing with the issues surrounding the support of this special population. On a regular basis, Network members receive the latest information regarding HIV in corrections and participate in monthly conference calls.

When she is not busy running one of the largest corrections initiatives in the country, Priscilla enjoys gardening, reading true crime novels, and singing and listening to classical music. When asked about what she sees as the biggest frustration for people working in the field of HIV and corrections, Priscilla replied, “Substance abuse. It’s almost always the reason that people end up in jail or prison. It’s the reason we have so many “frequent flyers” (released inmates repeatedly returning to jail or prison). Trying to design a discharge plan for these inmates is difficult and so frustrating for the social workers—even if resources are available.”

And what is Priscilla’s wish for the future, given a magic wand? “To know what good, workable programs are out there in jails and prisons, and then replicate them. I’d like to see increased funding for jails to do more screening and linking. I’d wish for more peer education programs in jails and prisons, and more tools to help us do a better job with disease prevention and education.”

In terms of a better job, it is hard to think of anyone in public health who is working harder or more effectively than Priscilla Wood. In the eyes of the world, she is doing it “with aplomb.”

The Hyacinth AIDS Foundation

(continued from page 3)

management and discharge planning are offered not only to HIV+ inmates, but also to high risk negative clients.

As a model of discharge planning and case management in the community, the Hyacinth AIDS Foundation is possibly one of the best in the country. In the words of Jodi Riccardi, Correctional Services Coordinator for Hyacinth, “When the clients go out into the community, that is when the work really begins.” While the women are in the prison, the case managers work as treatment advocates with the HIV+ inmates. The case managers discuss individual health assessments, talk with inmates about medications and lab values and assist with a discharge plan. Once the inmate is released, Hyacinth helps ensure that continuity of care is provided, even if the inmate is referred to another agency for followup care. Because the first three days after release are considered particularly critical, Hyacinth insists that the released inmate recontact their case manager during the first 72 hours after release. Should the released inmate not call in, the case manager will seek to find her.

Staying true to their reputation for innovative planning with their clients, Hyacinth has proposed holding a post-release social gathering for people who have gone through their program. A large outdoor gathering—complete with disk jockey, games and prizes—is in the planning stages for clients in the Northern region in September. The goal of this activity is to provide an occasion for positive social interaction among former inmates, an opportunity that is not often available to them. It is also a chance for the Hyacinth staff to say once more, in a meaningful and public way, “We’re still here, and we still care.”

For more information, on the Hyacinth AIDS Foundation, contact:
Veronica Sanders: vsanders@eclipse.net, Director of Correctional Services
Jodi Riccardi: corrections@eclipse.net, Correctional Services Coordinator
78 New Street; New Brunswick, N.J. 08901
Tel: 732-246-0204 or 800-433-0254; Fax: 732-246-4137

Letter from Paul Kawata, Executive Director National Minority AIDS Council October 2001



Dear Colleagues:

In the aftermath of the events of September 11th, we had to cancel the United States Conference on AIDS. It was a difficult decision to make, but given the circumstances, we had little choice. I know that many of you had planned to attend, and we share your disappointment at the missed opportunities.

The National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC) grieves with the nation for those who lost their lives in the attacks. We oppose discrimination and harassment and stand in solidarity with those who may face violence and prejudice at this time due to their religion or national origin.

Despite the tragedy, more than 350 of our constituents were able to make it to Miami – including an eight-member delegation from Kenya. We asked them what they wanted to do, and everyone wanted to continue. Within two hours, and with the great work of NMAC's conference staff, we put together a makeshift conference consisting of three tracks and 18 workshops. We also held a memorial for those lost in the attacks. It was a time of tears, determination and dedication.

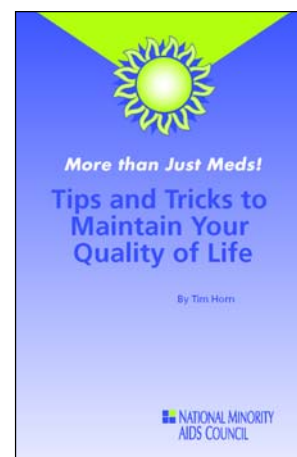
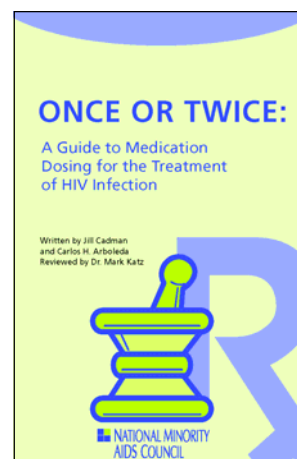
We thank those who made it to Miami and those who tried but could not make it. We plan to meet again in Anaheim next year and hope to see everyone there.

As the nation returns to some semblance of normal life, NMAC continues conference programs to bring you the latest information about the epidemic in our communities. Our North American AIDS Treatment Action Forum will take place December 2-5, 2001, at the Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre Hotel in Vancouver, Canada. Registration is open until October 31, 2001. The Community Planning Leadership Summit for HIV Prevention is set for March 6-9, 2002, at the Hyatt Regency in Chicago, Illinois. You can find the latest information about our meetings and conferences on our website (www.nmac.org).

NMAC's Treatment Department has produced two new treatment-related publications. *Once or Twice Daily: A Guide to Medication Dosing for the Treatment of HIV Infection* and *More Than Just Meds! Tips and Tricks to Maintain Your Quality of Life* are part of NMAC's continuing work to provide people living with HIV/AIDS with valuable information to continue improving their quality of life. If you would like copies of these or other NMAC publications, please contact us at 202-483-6622 or send email to info@nmac.org.

Yours in the struggle,

Paul Kawata





- Reminder -



Inside-Out:
Bridging Public Health and Corrections
2nd Annual Conference
"Creating a Continuum of Programs"

October 15-17, 2001
San Diego, CA

This Conference will...

- Identify Current Best Practices
- Assess Obstacles
- Brainstorm Solutions
- Explore Issues and Opportunities

...for prevention and transitional care prior to and upon release from custody, and for people in jail or prison at risk for and/or infected with HIV, Hepatitis, Tuberculosis, and/or other STDs.

Special Keynote Address

*Warden Jeanne Woodford
San Quentin State Prison*

~ Host Hotel ~

Hilton San Diego Mission Valley

901 Camino del Rio South

San Diego, CA 92108

Ph: 619-543-9000 Fax: 619-543-9358

Reservations: 1-800-HILTONS

Group ID: "2001 Corrections Summit".

Cut-Off Date: **September 21st**

Rate: \$119+tax/night Single/Double

Contact RDL enterprises at 916-443-0218
or via email at RDL@RDLent.com
if you have any questions about this conference.

Register Online after August 17th at www.RDLent.com

Please Duplicate, Distribute, and Post

Save the Date

October 16, 2001

Management of HIV/AIDS in the Correctional Setting: A Live Satellite Videoconference Series "*Antiretroviral Therapy: Charting a Successful Course*"

<http://www.amc.edu/patient/HIV/hivconf.htm>

Phone: (518) 262-4674

November 10-14, 2001

2001 National Conference on Correctional Health Care Albuquerque Convention Center

Albuquerque, NM

<http://www.ncchc.org/conference/national.htm>

Phone: (773) 880-1460

March 4-7, 2002

2002 National STD Prevention Conference Town and Country Hotel and Convention Center San Diego, CA

<http://www.stdconference.org>

RESOURCES

EMAIL LISTSERV ON HIV AND HEP C IN PRISONS AND JAILS

PrisonPoz is an email listserv focusing on HIV and Hepatitis C in prisons and jails. More than 120 subscribers from across the country—service providers, activists, ex-prisoners, academics—use the listserv to discuss and share information and announcements in the field. **Subscription is free!** E-mail list owner Rachel Maddow (maddow@rcn.com) for further information or to subscribe.



EMAIL LISTSERV ON RYAN WHITE CARE ACT UPDATES

The HRSA HIV/AIDS Bureau (HAB) features updates for the Ryan White CARE Act community through the *HAB News* listserv. To subscribe, contact Paula Jones at pjones1@hrsa.gov

POZ LIFE FORUMS

POZ Magazine organizes "POZ Life Forums" which are all-day, free conferences for HIV educators, care providers, PWA's (Persons with AIDS) and others held at different sites in the United States. For a schedule of POZ Life Forums and additional information, check the POZ Life Forums information on the website

This newsletter is also available in full-color electronic format on the National Minority AIDS Council's website: www.nmac.org